

City of San Diego
Governmental Relations Department



Perchlorate Regulations

Lead Department: Water

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Background

The San Diego Water Department services 1.2 million customers, including the largest concentration of military bases in the United States. It is one of the ten largest water suppliers in the nation – providing 206 MGD per day. By the year 2030, the City's population and economic growth is projected to increase water demands by about 55 million gallons a day (MGD) or 25 percent over 2002 levels.

The Department of Health Services has issued regulations establishing a maximum level for the presence of the chemical perchlorate in drinking water. Those regulations have been challenged for having inadequate scientific foundation. The health impacts of the chemical are now under study by both the University of California and the National Academy of Sciences.

The City supports the implementation of scientifically based, achievable standards for the chemical, and will provide input on the development of a regulation.

Strategies

- Water Department to monitor development of standards.
- Consultants to coordinate education program for regulators at appropriate time.
- Support an EPA approved perchlorate testing method that is able to detect perchlorate at the lower levels being suggested by the proposed regulation.